

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A method to capture and portray information respecting airborne noxious gases present in the atmosphere of or down-wind from a gas or oil production well-site not having access to the communications and power supply public infrastructure typically associated with populated areas, for the purpose of warning remote operators of said well-site of the presence of said gas, the method comprising:

detect, and generate raw data respecting, each said gas present in said atmosphere;
sense atmospheric conditions that cause anomalous readings respecting any said gas so detected;

process said raw data to identify each said gas detected and the concentration thereof so as to generate processed data respecting each said gas present in said atmosphere;

wirelessly communicate locally from a plurality of sensors said raw data or said processed data to a central communication interface operating from an intrinsically safe housing;

create a data log respecting sensor performance or the identity and concentration of said gases;

detect the presence and relative signal strength of any suitable cellular wireless long-distance service, and, based on said signal strength, automatically select between said cellular wireless long-distance means and any suitable satellite transponder long-distance service;

wirelessly transmit long-distance over the Internet said raw data or said processed data, using either said cellular or satellite wireless long-distance service, to a location off-site;

receive said raw data and said processed data at a specified IP address and securely portray through an Internet serving call centre at least a portion of said processed data respecting each said gas identified.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising: switch to said satellite service if said cellular service relative signal strength decreases below a pre-defined level.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising: capture digital images of activities on or proximal to said remote gas or oil production well-site, and transmit said images over the Internet to said location off-site.

23. (New) A stand-alone electronic warning system to detect airborne noxious gases present in the atmosphere of or down-wind from a gas or oil production well-site not having access to the communications and power supply public infrastructure typically associated with populated areas, for the purpose of warning remote operators of said well-site of the presence of said gas, the system comprising:

at least two sensor means to detect, and generate raw data respecting, each said gas present in said atmosphere;

condition sensing means for sensing atmospheric conditions that cause anomalous output from said sensor means;

processor means, communicably coupled to said sensor means and said condition sensing means, to process said raw data and identify each said gas detected;

a central communication interface, having an intrinsically safe housing, for electronically receiving raw data respecting each said gas from each said sensor, and for electronically receiving processed data from said processor means;

wireless local means to communicate said raw data and said processed data to said central communication interface;

a cellular wireless long-distance means, communicably coupled to said central communication interface, for transmitting over the Internet to a location off-site said raw data respecting each said gas detected or said processed data respecting each said gas identified;

a satellite transponder long-distance means, communicably coupled to said central communication interface, and having voice-communication means integrated therein, for transmitting over the Internet to a location off-site said raw data respecting each said gas detected or said processed data respecting each said gas identified;

switching means for selecting either said cellular wireless long-distance means or said satellite transponder long-distance means; and

at least one portable source of power for supplying electrical power to each element of said electronic warning system.

24. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said cellular wireless long-distance means comprises a modem adaptable to transmitting through a Cellular Digital Packet Data network using Internet protocol via any suitable router or similar device.

25. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said satellite transponder long-distance means, having voice-communication means integrated therein, is a Globalstar satellite transponder.

26. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said switching means further comprises means for detecting the presence and relative signal strength of said cellular wireless long-distance means, and, based on said signal strength, automatically selecting between said cellular wireless long-distance means and said satellite transponder long-distance means.

27. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 further comprising any suitable means for storing said raw data or said processed data for the purpose of creating, and maintaining over time, a data log respecting sensor performance or the identity and concentration of said gases.

28. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 further comprising any suitable camera, video transmitter and video server device, communicably coupled to said central communication interface, for capturing and compressing digital images of activities on or proximal to said remote gas or oil production well-site, for transmitting said digital images over the Internet to a location off-site.

29. (New) The system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said location off-site comprises either: an IP address specified by a user of said system, or an Internet serving call centre for recording, reprocessing, forwarding, viewing, archiving and otherwise handling said processed data respecting each said gas identified.